

HONORING THE LEGACY OF PAT
TILLMAN: AN EXTRAORDINARY
AMERICAN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Pat Tillman was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and was based at Fort Lewis, Washington. On April 22, 2004, he was killed in the line of duty near the Pakistan border as he led his Army Ranger team to help comrades caught in an ambush. He was 27 years old.

Pat Tillman attended Leland High School in San Jose, California. As a linebacker on the Arizona State University football team, he was named the 1997 PAC-10 Defensive Player of the Year. Finishing with a marketing degree in three and a half years, he graduated summa cum laude with a 3.84 GPA.

He was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals in the seventh round in 1998, the 226th pick overall. He became the Cardinals' starting safety and in 2000, he set a new franchise record with 224 tackles.

Following the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001, Pat Tillman spoke of his admiration for his relatives who had taken up arms to defend the nation in previous conflicts. He went on: "I really haven't done a damn thing as far as laying myself on the line like that. And so I have a great deal of respect for those that have and what the flag stands for." In 2002, he turned down a \$3.6 million contract from the Arizona Cardinals and enlisted in the Army instead.

Following his death, the military posthumously promoted Pat Tillman from specialist to corporal. He also was awarded a Purple Heart and the distinguished Silver Star award for gallantry on the battlefield.

In the world of professional sports, Pat Tillman's story is extraordinary; choosing duty over dollars. However, in the context of our military, his sacrifice is typical of our soldiers.

His death reminds us about the sacrifices that our veterans and fighting forces have made for us. Not for fame or fortune, but for a love of country, with determination, courage and honor, the men and women of our armed services have dedicated their lives to the defense of our democratic ideals. Pat Tillman will be remembered as one of the most admirable of America's heroes. His legacy will strengthen the United States of America forever.

The life we live today is shaped by men and women like Pat Tillman. Each has stood ready in defense of their country. Our nation owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude for their service. We enjoy our freedoms because of their valor.

I join a grateful nation in sending my thoughts and prayers to the Tillman family and all families who have lost loved ones serving to protect our sacred liberty.

CALLING FOR SHARED SACRIFICE
IN THE WAR ON TERROR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon our nation to share the sacrifice imposed upon us by our war on terrorism. I have introduced a bill to reinstitute the draft for young Americans between the ages of 18 and 26 and national civilian service for all those not needed in the military.

Since I have submitted this bill in January 2003, my conviction that we need a draft has risen on an almost daily basis. In March 2003 the administration decided to take the nation to war against Iraq for doubtful reasons. I do not think that members of this administration and Congress would have been so willing to launch a war if they had known that their own children might have to fight it.

Fact is, that we are currently a nation in which the poor fight our wars while the affluent stay at home. The majority of our brave servicemen and women come either from poor rural areas or poverty-shaken inner-city neighborhoods. About thirty-five percent of our soldiers are minorities. These young people enlist in the military mainly for financial and educational opportunities.

I believe that the burdens of war should not be shouldered solely by the poor segments of our society, but must be fairly shared by all racial and economic groups. I am pleased to see that during the last couple of months the support for a reintroduction of the draft has risen substantially among the American people. As our casualties in Iraq increase daily and exhausted soldiers are kept in Iraq under stop loss orders, the debate about shared sacrifice is gaining ground.

I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article by journalist and Vietnam War Veteran William Broyles Jr. which was published in the New York Times on May 4, 2004. Mr. Broyles' article is one of the strongest pieces favoring the draft that I have read so far and it fully reflects my own opinion on this subject.

[From the New York Times, May 4, 2004]

A WAR FOR US, FOUGHT BY THEM

(By William Broyles Jr.)

WILSON, Wyo.—The longest love affair of my life began with a shotgun marriage. It was the height of the Vietnam War and my student deferment had run out. Desperate not to endanger myself or to interrupt my personal plans, I wanted to avoid military service altogether. I didn't have the resourcefulness of Bill Clinton, so I couldn't figure out how to dodge the draft. I tried to escape into the National Guard, where I would be guaranteed not to be sent to war, but I lacked the connections of George W. Bush, so I couldn't slip ahead of the long waiting list. My attitude was the same as Dick Cheney's: I was special, I had "other priorities." Let other people do it.

When my draft notice came in 1968, I was relieved in a way. Although I had deep doubts about the war, I had become troubled about how I had angled to avoid military service. My classmates from high school were in the war; my classmates from college were not—exactly the dynamic that exists today. But instead of reporting for service in the Army, on a whim I joined the Marine Corps, the last place on earth I thought I belonged.

My sacrifice turned out to be minimal. I survived a year as an infantry lieutenant in Vietnam. I was not wounded; nor did I struggle for years with post-traumatic stress disorder. A long bout of survivor guilt was the price I paid. Others suffered far more, particularly those who had to serve after the war had lost all sense of purpose for the men fighting it. I like to think that in spite of my being so unwilling at first, I did some small service to my country and to that enduring love of mine, the United States Marine Corps.

To my profound surprise, the Marines did a far greater service to me. In 3 years I learned more about standards, commitment and yes, life, than I did in 6 years of university. I also learned that I had had no idea of my own limits: when I was exhausted after humping up and down jungle mountains in 100-degree heat with a 75-pound pack, terrified out of my mind, wanting only to quit, convinced I couldn't take another step, I found that in fact I could keep going for miles. And my life was put in the hands of young men I would otherwise never have met, by and large high-school dropouts, who turned out to be among the finest people I have ever known.

I am now the father of a young man who has far more character than I ever had. I joined the Marines because I had to; he signed up after college because he felt he ought to. He volunteered for an elite unit and has served in both Afghanistan and Iraq. When I see images of Americans in the war zones, I think of my son and his friends, many of whom I have come to know and deeply respect. When I opened this newspaper yesterday and read the front-page headline, "9 G.I.'s Killed," I didn't think in abstractions. I thought very personally.

The problem is, I don't see the images of or read about any of the young men and women who, as Dick Cheney and I did, have "other priorities." There are no immediate family members of any of the prime civilian planners of this war serving in it—beginning with President Bush and extending deep into the Defense Department. Only one of the 535 members of Congress, Senator Tim Johnson of South Dakota, has a child in the war—and only half a dozen others have sons and daughters in the military.

The memorial service yesterday for Pat Tillman, the football star killed in Afghanistan, further points out this contrast. He remains the only professional athlete of any sport who left his privileged life during this war and turned in his play uniform for a real one. With few exceptions, the only men and women in military service are the profoundly patriotic or the economically needy.

It was not always so. In other wars, the men and women in charge made sure their family members led the way. Since 9/11, the war on terrorism has often been compared to the generational challenge of Pearl Harbor; but Franklin D. Roosevelt's sons all enlisted soon after that attack. Both of Lyndon B. Johnson's sons-in-law served in Vietnam.

This is less a matter of politics than privilege. The Democratic elites have not responded more nobly than have the Republican; it's just that the Democrats' hypocrisy is less acute. Our president's own family illustrates the loss of the sense of responsibility that once went with privilege. In three generations the Bushes have gone from war hero in World War II, to war evader in Vietnam, to none of the extended family showing up in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pat Tillman didn't want to be singled out for having done what other patriotic Americans his age should have done. The problem is, they aren't doing it. In spite of the president's insistence that our very civilization is at stake, the privileged aren't flocking to the flag. The war is being fought by Other